

Public Meeting Overview

Aquatic Reserve Management

Guidance for the management of the Aquatic Reserve Program was developed through public meetings and a formal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process in 2001 and 2002. The EIS provides guidance for the process of site evaluation and management. During the summer of 2003 all six existing Aquatic Reserves will be re-evaluated and management plans for those sites will be developed.



How should Aquatic Reserves be managed?

Land Use

Land use within and adjacent to the Aquatic Reserve affects DNR's ability to effectively manage the site for conservation purposes. Cultural artifacts and historic sites may be protected or enhanced by reserve designation, while incompatible zoning or land use may diminish the effectiveness of a reserve.



What land uses are compatible with Aquatic Reserves?

Natural Resources

The natural resources at a site include species, populations, habitats and ecosystem processes. By examining these resources, and by placing them in a regional context, DNR can make informed decisions about the importance of a site to the local and regional ecosystem.



Which natural resources are important? Where? How much?

Site Evaluation Process

DNR manages more than 2.4 million acres of aquatic lands, including navigable rivers and lakes in addition to marine tidelands and bedlands. In evaluating sites, DNR is looking for sites with:

- High ecological or cultural quality
- Target species, habitats or ecological processes
- Viable occurrences of species, habitats or processes
- Defensible and manageable site characteristics

How should sites be evaluated?

What information should be considered?

What is the public's role?

